

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA- 1433
MAG # -0314333604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Emory House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

207 W. Chesapeake Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

___ VICINITY OF

9th
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC

___ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Raymond A. Seitz

Telephone #: 823-4989

STREET & NUMBER

502 Highland Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Baltimore Co. Courthouse, New Courts Building

Liber #: 970

Folio #: 21

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Jan., 1978</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This 2½ story frame house has a gabled-end roof and features a central pediment on the street side which acts as a dormer. This house rests on an original stone foundation and built into the side of a hill, it sits on a lot of size 46' by 155'. Basically rectangular in shape, it is 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep. The interior chimney exits the roof in the exact center. The house is shingled and based on examination with one of two identical neighbors, it is suggested that the original siding consisted of rectangular wooden shingles.

The north (street) facade, being the fanciest, is characterized by the large centrally located pediment and the single-storied porch which covers the first level. This facade has regular fenestration consisting of 3 upper and 2 lower 6/6-light sash windows. The windows are made decorative by a rounded moulding flat arch and louvered shutters. At the easternmost bay of the first floor is located the door which is 6-paneled and is flanked by 4-pane sidelights. The single-storied porch covers the whole first level and is supported by 4 slender doric columns which stand on brick pedestals. On the east end of the porch over the entrance is a pediment suggesting a portico. The strongest classical detail can be seen in the upper story of the facade which is dominated by the large pediment. This pediment is vented by an 18-pane casement window. The base of the pediment relates to the wall of the facade by means of a concave curved cornice. The lower corners of the pediment, being decorated with a sunburst pattern, are similar to two adjacent houses on the block. There is also a decorative small box-like structure at the cornice adjacent to the sunburst carving.

The east facade is characterized by a 1½ story projection on the north half of the house and the irregular fenestration. The projection lights the interior stairs it encloses with 12-pane casement windows facing north and east. The rest of the facade consists of 1 upper south and 2 lower south 6/6-light sash windows. The east gable is vented by 2 closely situated 9-pane casement windows.

The south facade has a centralized 1½ story wing lit by 2, 12-pane casement windows, one facing east, one west, and upon examination of the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

interior is part of the kitchen. Located off the southwest corner is the door and a small one-bay entrance porch which occupies the L formed by the south wing and the main block. This area is covered by a shed roofed hood. 1 upper west, 1 upper east and 1 lower east 6/6-light sash windows show regular fenestration on this facade.

The west facade has irregular fenestration. Lighting the cellar in the high foundation is 1 north and 1 south irregularly placed casement windows. There is 1 upper north and 1 upper south 6/6-light sash windows while the lower southern area has a pair of closely situated 6/6-light sash windows. The gabled-end roof on this side has 2 closely situated 9-pane casement windows.

Over the years the interior has been altered but some original features remain. This includes the full stone cellar, fireplaces, window and door moulding, and stairs et al.

Downstairs the main block is divided into 4 rooms with a kitchen addition on the south side. The rooms are tied together by means of the centrally located chimney which serves fireplaces in both the southeast and northwest rooms. The house is entered by means of a hall on the northwest parlor and the southeast room (dining area). The kitchen occupies the southwest corner.

The most notable features remaining in these areas include stairs in the hallway and the northwest and southeast fireplaces. The stairs, appearing to be oak, are contained by a projecting bay in the east facade. This closed string stairs is made decorative by fluting, turned balusters, and a turned newel. These stairs are lit by 2 decorative 12-light casement windows. In the high-ceilinged northwest parlor there is a kittycornered fireplace with a somewhat elegant mantelpiece, shown by carvings in the frieze. The southeast fireplace is faced with a round arch mantelpiece appearing to be made of slate and decorated with a key. Like the other fireplace, this one is also kittycornered and appears to have burned coal as well as wood. In all rooms, plain door and window moulding was observed and in many of the windows, one can see older panes of waivy glass.

The second floor plan generally reflects that of the one below and provides for at least 3 bedrooms with 2 more rooms in the half story above. The interior space of the third level is characterized by the knee-wall on the south side and the angular ceiling caused by the central pediment. These areas are connected by a 4-paneled door with a metal box lock. This half story is reached by a separate steep stairway lit by a 12-light casement window. In this attic area, it was observed that the walls were finished with lathing and hair plaster. Features encountered throughout the house include the hardwood floors, metal radiators and plain moulding.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ^{specific date unknown}
^{appears on Bromley map} of 1898. BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This late 19th century house is significant to Towson both individually and as part of a group of several houses on the block which were built during the same period.

As an individual structure this house reflects the influence of colonial revival style as evidenced by doric columns on the porch, the visually centralizing front gable which creates the impression of a pediment, and the front porch pediment which suggests a portico. This house is one of 3 on the block which has these colonial revival elements, similar interior and exterior plans, and like its 2 neighbors on the east, there is a sunburst pattern in the pediment which makes the houses individual, as a group.

Perhaps more importantly, this house is part of a group of 5 houses that appear to be the only remaining residences on Cheasapeake Ave. situated between York Rd. and Bosley Ave. They appear to have been built in order to face the courthouse on one of the planned streets in Towson and therefore these houses as a group are a visual document of not only the late 19th century architecture but also the life-styles of a courthouse town. These houses show a variety of architectural styles in the Queen Anne and picturesque style houses which occupy the ends of the block and which are linked by a row of colonial revival style houses. These buildings have the ability to document not only the lifestyles of the late 19th century town but also they can show Towson's original skyline in juxtaposition with the new county courts building. This is supported by Hahn and Behm in Towson, a Pictorial History of a Maryland Town (page 50): "The human scale of the 1854 Court House and the dignity of its landscaping contrast sharply with the colossus of the 1976 courts building."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

WAYNE E. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

NAME / TITLE

Willis E. Anne Burton (Wayne Nield)

Jan. 12, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Goucher College (Towson Historic Soc.)

DATE

296-5493

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Duleny Valley Rd.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Towson

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Title Search

	<u>Liber</u>	<u>Folio</u>	
W/R	81	332	May Seitz wills to Raymond Seitz 1964
L/R	970	21	Kathrine Brown--to--S. Clayton Seitz lot-143 1/3 ft. along s side of Ches- apeake Ave. from sw corner of Chesapeake and Baltimore and running nw on Ches- apeake 46 2/3 ft. and sw parallel w/ Baltimore 155 ft. 12/26/1935
L/R	435	427	D. Hopper Emory-to-Kathrine Brown, same lot, 10/7/1914
L/R	181	564	Joseph Willis-to--D. Hopper Emory, same lot, 10/ 2/1890
L/R	170	287	Milton W. Offutt--leases to-- Joseph Willis, same lot, 7/1/1888
L/R	9	123	This lot being part of the land deeded from Grafton Bosley to Enos Smedley 7/4/1854

It has been documented that Towson owes much of its character to the fact that it grew as a "19th century court house town." It was complete with a courthouse on a large green surrounded by banks, lawyers' offices, a jail and some rather fine and fashionable residences. There are some visual documents of this fact remaining, but modern development has fragmented the blocks around the square, leaving these links with the past often isolated from one another and dwarfed in scale.

The single row of houses on the south side of the 200 block of Chesapeake Avenue, however, do provide a continuous streetscape that is the last row of 19th century residences on that street inside of the loop road. Dramatically juxtaposed to the New Courts Building, they provide an opportunity to realize the more human scale that this rural town possessed until only recently. The same row of buildings also provides examples of various late 19th century architectural styles and although they are now used for offices, they demonstrate a good deal about residential activity in Towson.

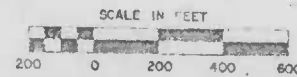
No. 203 W. Chesapeake Avenue is a rambling multi-directional building that shows the influence of the Queen Anne style. Modern siding does not offer the various textures one might expect but the tower, bay windows, polygonal projections and various shaped windows do provide the variety of forms typical of that style. In Numbers 205, 207 and 209, however, we see what was once three nearly identical houses that are not as organic in appearance. On the contrary they are much more regular in form and expressive of the classical attitude suggested by the Colonial Revival. In these buildings one sees regular fenestration, pedimented porches with slender Doric columns and each is centralized by a prominent central pediment. A curious feature found in all three is the very nice sunburst or fan-shaped design that decorates the bottom corners of the central pediment. Nicely balancing this row of buildings is No. 211 which, like its neighbor at the opposite end of the block, is more Victorian in nature. Its use of shingled gables and clapboards, the "swell front" and high fieldstone foundation are suggestive of the picturesque.

W. Chesapeake Ave
207

BA-1433



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MD DEPT. OF ASSESS. & TAX



TOWSON
SCALE 1"=200'

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
TAX MAP DIVISION
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MAP NO.
70A



BA-1433

207 W. CHESAPEAKE Ave
N.W. CORNER

W. NIEL
1/78